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Samsung

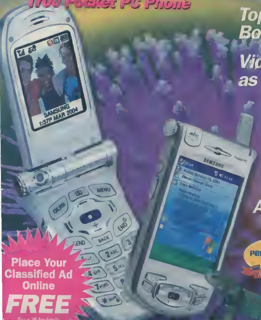
SCH - A600 Camera Phone
i700 Pocket PC Phone

Review of

Albatron FX5700 Ultra

Top 10 Book List

Video Game as Art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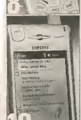

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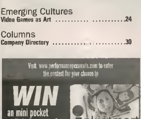
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Senior Writers
Douglas Alder
Babak Khonsari
James Sams
Mike Cantelon
writer@performancepccanada.com

Associate Publisher / Art Director
Sherly Ho
design@performancepccanada.com

President / Publisher
Joshua Paul
publisher@performancepccanada.com

Ad Sales
sales@performancepccanada.com

Ad Coordinator
adco@performancepccanada.com

Distribution
distribute@performancepccanada.com

For information on advertising, Call 604-638-0668
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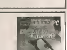

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Make it go further

By Joshua Paul

"With each issue PerformancePC has gotten better, due because of the hard work everyone has put in, but maybe also because it is somehow getting easier . Just kidding (- We now distribute to over 630 (isn't that almost 700 (-) locations, and we are printing 25,000 copies.

To make those 25,000 copies go farther, here at PerformancePC we ask that you pitch in (not out) and help save the environment. Everyone please recycle - that means making sure 20 or 30 other people read BEFORE it goes in the newsprint bin when you are done with it. However if you are really into recycling and get 100 friends to sign the magazine WITH their phone numbers (we know you'd never dream of cheating - we just want to keep you honest) you will be entered to a Xincom dual wan router, a $199 value.

Of course the only reason for this contest is so that we can say that "1 copy of our magazine is read by more than 10 people, and as you know when 10 is multiplied by 25,000 it equals 250,000. Which shows that a huge number of people in the Lower Mainland read PerformancePC, which means it's a good place to advertise, and that you should call me right now at 604 638 0668 to book space in the next issue." Anyway, that's enough sillyness for this issue .

In this issue we have, as always the best computer related editorial the world has to offer - and now for the first time ever, a PerformancePC premier - 2 features on internet enabled cell phones!

I know at least some of you are sceptically shaking your heads - cell phone internet speeds are too slow to be useful. Friends, nothing could be further from the truth! (-

I use my Hiptop everyday for email and instant messaging, even surfing. I have had a web enabled cell phone for almost 10 months and I can't imagine living without one. And the lack of coverage in remote areas isn't a bug - it's a feature! Now when I go to Alice Lake outside Squamish I can relax knowing that cell phone is not in service (however if Telus' bid for Microcell goes through that may change) and meddlesome clients will interrupt family no longer.

What might the future of web enabled cell phones bring? Well as PCs have had to be equipped with software to keep Junior out of websites he should have access to, so to will cell phones. Now where can I find some venture cap so I retire early?? (-

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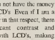
Albatron FX5700 Ultra

Review by James Sams

Overview

After consistently lackluster reviews for their FX5600, Nvidia a revision of the series and a winning chipset, the FX5700 With reports that ATI has overtaken Nvidia to become the number two chip supplier, next to number one Intel, Nvidia needed to continue to work hard to regain their reputation and market share It appears that they have gained sufficient experience with this GPU and manufacturing process to pump out a surprisingly better card than was seen with the first revision, the FX5600 It will be interesting to see if Nvidia can improve upon the next generation of cards as much as they improved this revision



A sign of the times, cards are increasingly coming without DVI-to-VGA converters, as companies assume buyers own an LCD. As an owner of two 19' CRT monitors, I find this a poor assumption as many simply do not have the money to shell out for LCD's Even if I am a minority consumer in that respect, there are still significant contrast and ghosting issues with LCD's, making them only mediocre options for hardcore gaming This situation is improving and having the optional VGA to LCD grants the ability to use an LCD in the future This ensures that the card does not become obsolete as the technology changes.

The market for this card is the upper-midrange With a US$200 price tag, most gamers are willing to shell out the money to upgrade, making the card the mainstream for gamers, though excessive for average email-and-browsing users. The 5700 is an evolution of the 5600 card and is in competition with ATI's 9600 series cards, specifically the 9600XT

General Layout

The card itself is a bit of a beast As all Geforce FX cards this one requires additional power from a 4-pin molex This is becoming more common as video cards are power hungry and the AGP slot does not provide enough power by itself for today's cards ATI is still attempting to avoid this necessity, though not always succeeding With the beat that processors and hard drives are producing now, the last thing most need in their box is another heat producing entity, which any card that requires outside power inevitably will be. Thankfully, Albatron has veered from the reference design and designed a custom heat sink/fan combination they dub Wise Fan II The system features three fans, two of which remain powered all of the time, with the third one kicking in if the heat gets above what the card thinks is an acceptable level Also, if one of the fans dies, the other one will automatically kick in permanently However, there is no feature that lets you know if one of your fans have died, though this shouldn't occur its a great feature especially on video cards today

The heat sink itself is for the most part a very satisfactory cooling solution However, the device itself falls short in one area while the system itself has another 'flaw' The the thermal pads for the RAM are about 2mm thick, a bit much even for thermal adhesives I'm curious as to the impact this has on the RAM over clocking However, the RAM sinks for the back of the card are sufficient, though by no means generous. However, many manufacturers fail to provide any RAM sinks whatsoever, and we applaud Albatron for doing so

The second 'flaw' that cropped up in the cooling solution

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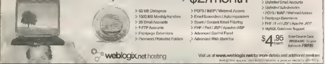

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Misc:	$600 without a telus contract, $500 dollars with $0.25 per picture sent. Free to receive picture, add an extra $0.25 for voice attachments.

The Samsung SCH-A600 is one of three Camera phone models that Telusmobility (www-elusmobility.com) is offering for their picture messaging bundles. Ergonomically, it is very sleek looking lip phone. The top part of the phone an flip 180 degrees and fold back, giving the user an external display feature. The camera has an almost 90 degree freedom of movement. It can rotate up and down allowing the user more freedom in choosing the lens angle. The clamshell design with the rotating head is surly a fashion decision. If the screen was touch screen, I could see the purpose for this feature. One possible benefit of always carrying the phone with the screen up is that you can always see the number of the person who is calling you. The downside to this system is that the screen becomes soiled very quickly. One thing that took some time to getting used to, was that there is a "Send" button and an "OK" button. To receive calls you have to press send. That didn't make sense to me, as in a couple of occasions I was pressing "OK" to receive calls.

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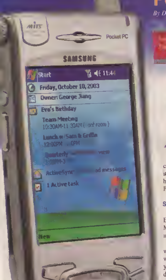

The Samsung i700 Pocket PC Phone Edition is an integrated phone, PDA and digital camera The i700 has 64 MB RAM, and runs at 300 MHz The version ooked at runs on the TELUS Mobility's 1X network The st thing that strikes you about this digital mobile phone is size of it. At 132 mm x 71 mm x 20 mm, it is big, ecially if left in the included leather portfolio case The one alone weighs around 250 grams, and 350 grams in the case That size and weight is comparable to other PDAs, but it is large for a phone. There is also the 'geek factor' of holding something that looks like a PDA up to your ear. People may think you are confused

Software

Bundled software includes Pocket PC versions of Word, Excel, Outlook, Internet Explorer, Windows Media Player, Microsoft Reader, Terminal Services Client and the all-important Solitaire

These built-in applications have the capability of syncing with your desktop applications if you set it up to transfer when you drop the phone into the USB cradle and connect to your computer You need to install Microsoft ActiveSync to do this. This software comes with the install disks that accompany the i700 phone. It only runs on Windows, though there are third-party applications that allow you to sync to a Macintosh for a price.

Screen

The touch sensitive TFT Display is bright and very useable, though when the backlight is off, it is almost impossible to read the screen The manual claims that there are 65,536 colors and 240 x 320 pixels though I did not count all of them.

According to the manual, you are supposed to always use the stylus when touching the screen to avoid scratching or damage caused by other instruments. Extracting the thin

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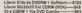

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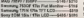

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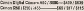

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Albatron FX5700 Ultra

Continued from page 6

was the amount of thermal goop used on the GPU Anyone who has ever done over clocking knows that there is a middle ground for how much 'goop' to use. A thin layer, fully covering the GPU, but not so thick that it seeps out when the heat sink is placed on top is just right. Albatron simply used too much, remnants of which you can see in the picture of the GPU Again, this is forgivable Most manufacturers go heavy on the goop, or use those horrible thermal pads

Card Specifications

Model Number	FX5700 Ultra
Engine Clock Speed.	475MHz
Memory Clock	450MHz (900MHz effective data rate)
Memory	128MB DDR-II
AGP version	8x
DirectX Version	9
Manufacturing Process	0 13u
Memory Width	128 bit
Vertex Shader version	2 0+
Pixel Shader version	2.0+
Pixels/Clock	4
Outputs	VGA, DVI S-Video
Included accessories	Driver CD WinDVD Creator Games Pack, full version of Duke Nukem Manhattan Project S-Video male-male cable S-Video to-Composite converter & male-male Composite cable

The 5700 Ultra's GPU

The RAM is Samsung's K4N26323AE-GC22 2 2ns RAM, which produces 900MHz data rate Some other companies are using the 2 0ns, -GC20, which provides 1000MHz Reports have floated around that the 2.0ns RAM is in some of Albatron's 5700 ultra cards, though there is no way to tell by looking at the box which you are getting

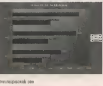
Benchmark Setup:

SiS 746FX
AMD XP 2000 oc'ed to 2400
1 x 40 GB Samsung HDD for OS and game installation
1 x 100 GB WD HDD for Swap
1 x 200 GB WD HDD for data recording (all HD's on separate ATA channels)
512 MB PC2700 RAM
Creative Audigy
Windows XP - all updates
Latest Detonator drivers available were used

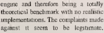
Note: With the release of DirectX 9 games, the test suite used by Techware Labs is being upgraded. Unfortunately, this is the first batch of cards to go through this suite, so comparisons for some tests will be lacking However, our numbers from previous cards will be given where available. As we continue to phase in the test suite, our newer reviews will feature valid comparisons with other DirectX 9 cards

3D Mark 2001SE

The 3d Mark 2001SE benchmark has been around for several years and provides a general insight as to the 3D power and performance a card is capable of While both ATI and Nvidia have attempted to skirt corners on the test, the benchmark itself remains relatively trustworthy It is also useful because the point system also attempts to weigh in the quality of the produced images in addition to the speed with which they are produced Of course, this gives some subjectivity to the test, but helps to standardize the quality of the image production



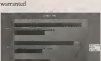
The FX5700 does a much better job than its predecessor, jumping about 300 points in the broad test. Let's see how it handles anti-aliasing, a known killer of the previous revision of Nvidia cards



Well, while the 5700 does hold up a bit better than the 5600 with anti-aliasing enabled, they are both fairly susceptible to slowdowns with this technology enabled.

3D Mark 2003

3DMark 2003 has received lots of bad press for lacking any real gaming engine and therefore being a totally theoretical benchmark with no realistic implementations. The complaints made against it seem to be legitimate. However, it is one of the more advanced DirectX9 benchmarks available and does a good job of testing picture quality We provide it here, noting that some doubt may be warranted



Again, the 5700 performs well and is not impacted as greatly as its predecessor by AA and AF

Other Benchmarks

Unreal Tournament 2003 remains

Continue on page 20

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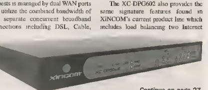

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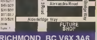

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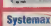

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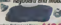

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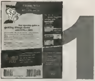

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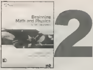

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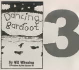

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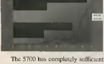
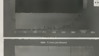
Albatron FX5700 Ultra

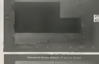
Continued from page 12

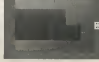
one of the most visually stunning first-person shooters out there It continues to be a solid game for benchmarking video cards



The 5700 has completely sufficient performance, even with AA and AF enabled This benchmark was taken at 1024x768, so moving to a much higher resolution with AA and AF enabled is advised against, as parts of the games will slow down to unacceptable levels However, with AA and AF disabled, the card should scale nicely to higher resolutions







The card produces decent levels o performance in all of the abov benchmarks However, Halo must b run at the lower levels in order to kee framerates to an acceptable level at a times, this may be indicative c performance in futu rereleased games

Conclusion

When the FX5600 cards came out was left with a sour taste, as were mc reviewers The card did not off significant improvements ov previous Nvidia offerings, and at mc price ranges, ATI was embarrassu Nvidia insofar as performance concerned Drivers are another issu Although ATI has ramped up the efforts to improve their drivers, I st have machines that consistently cra solely due to the ATI driver, regardle of which revision I use Nvidia b been extremely reliable in this end, a if you are wanting stability ov performance, I would not hesitate

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Albatron FX5700 Ultra

Continued from page 20

suggest the 5700 over the numbers I have seen from ATI's current offering, the 9600XT.

However, most looking at video cards like these are unconcerned about rock solid stability and are looking for performance coupled with enough stability to play games for 12 solid hours or so and then a reboot. The 5700 will satisfied these gamers, however, the AA and AF performance on the FX cards still suffers. ATI has grown to become Nvidia's equal, and the recent series of cards shows this. However, Nvidia is not giving up and has offered a card which is, by all accounts, on par with the 9600XT. Held in isolation, we congratulate Nvidia for producing a card worthy of their long-praised name.

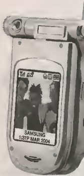
Did I mention it glows an eerily cool blue when powered on?

Albatron has taken Nvidia's reference card in a great direction. They provide high quality, though not industry best, and RAM with a great cooling solution which allows for great over clocking performance and stability. ◗

Samsung A600

Continued from page 8

As for reception and quality of features, this is a very sturdy phone. It is well built. I had no problems with either reception or background noise. One of the biggest disadvantages that I noticed on this phone is its incapability to sync with any other computer or device. In my previous phone I have at least 200 phone numbers. The only way to migrate those phone numbers into the A-600 would be to manually enter them. The A-600 does not use a SIM card, so it is not possible to transfer contacts via SIM. The memory capacity of the A-600 is enough to hold 12 high-resolution pictures. Again, the only way to take the pictures out of the phone is to email them via Telus web services. I found that in sunlight, the screen is very hard to see, but indoors, the screen is very clear and bright. The quality of the pictures is as good as you can expect from a 330k camera. Being able to send pictures across the world is a lot of fun. But I found the process too long. It takes about 25 keystrokes to send a simple picture with no audio or text attachments to one recipient in the address book. ◗



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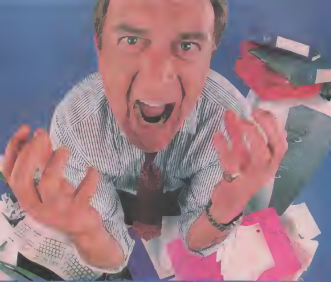

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Video Games As Art

Mike Cantelon

Video games, like comic books, are a form of creative expression once considered frivolous, but now increasingly appreciated for their cultural impact. As with other art forms, video games are used to educate, to show new possibilities, to model and comment on reality, and, most of all, to escape the present The interactive quality of video games, unlike other forms of art, heightens their impact This has led to questioning where the art form will lead and how and if its impact should be managed by society The issues of video game violence and the potential for virtual reality, for example, have become increasingly mainstream concerns.

From Blips to Beauty

Early video games, hampered by the technology of the time, had a limited palette with which to express their creator's vision. The audience for early video games consisted mostly of youth, who were the only demographic open-minded enough to interpret abstract graphics and weird sounds as an alternate reality Contemporary video games, however, reach a broader spectrum of the populace. Today's technology transcends the limits of the past, offering the potential of rich, immersive experiences that have the potential to appeal to all demographics.

Ubiquity

The ubiquity of home computers and Internet access provides a relatively cheap and accessible delivery channel benefiting hobbyists and big budget producers alike Hobbyists experiment and push the envelope in gaming design possibilities while big-budget producers, encouraged by the economic success of videogames, make efforts to reach new markets, attempting to bridge gender and age barriers. As people are born into a world where video games are an established part of culture, the barriers are naturally eroding As the age and number of those who grew up playing video games increases, will their evolving tastes be catered to? Will there at some point exist video games marketed towards senior citizens?

On home computers, in cell phones, and in portable devices video games can be found almost anywhere Video game culture is even finding its way into physical reality via art projects such as Space Invaders (http.//www.space-invaders.com).

Strange Games Indeed

From the strange to the sublime, the medium is evolving. The classic graphic adventure game "Myst" (http://www.myst.com) proved that games that go beyond formula could have market potential. Its succes paved the way for artfully don commercial releases that immerse th player in evocative, rich worlds

"Robot Finds Kitten (http //robotfindskitten.org) conversely, shows that even the mos humble programmer can creat culturally resonant video game ar This "Zen simulation" places th player in a strange world wit considerably low production value Ported to over 15 different platform the game centers around the existentia angst of a lonely robot This robot i faced with the desperate need to find among a matrix of cruelly unrelate objects, its beloved kitten. The gam play is simple and the graphics ar stark, but the effect is heart wrenchin There are few things that capture th pain of existence as much as playin "Robot Finds Kitten" on a Palm Pilo while far away from home, waiting fo a bus to carry one home to an uncertai future ◗

Mike Cantelon, aka Bad Feng Shu is a Vancouver composer/mutilato who has experimented with hom computer-based production for nearl a decade He enjoys skewin unsuspecting forms of music His wor can be heard a http //www newmusiccanada.com/gen es/artist cfm?Band _Id=4808

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USB 2.0 Support

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AOC 17" 7F Pure Flat Monitor + $145

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Intel P4 2.88 GHz CPU
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Slim mini ATX Tower Case W/P4 PS
Integrated 6 ch. Surround Audio
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Intel P4 2.8GHz 800FSB /512k cache CPU
MSI 865PE Neo2-PLS 800FSB
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3.5" 1.44MB FLOPPY DISK DRIVE
Geforce FX5600XT 128MB DDR TVO AGP
80GB 7200RPM HDD
17" ATX Tower Case W/P4 300W P/S &USB
6 ch. surround Audio
USB 2.0 & 10/100 Network Interface
52x32x52x CD RW DRIVE IDE

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AOC 17" 7F Pure Flat Monitor + $145

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AMD Athlon XP2500+ W/CPU Cooler
$269
AMD Athlon XP2800+ W/CPU Cooler
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ASUS P4SGX-MX All-in one P4 Motherboard
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INTEL P 4 Celeron 2.4GHz S 478 CPU W/COOLER
$259
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$329
INTEL P 4 2.5A Ghz w/512k cache S 478 CPU W/COOLER
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Athlon Power

AMD XP2500+ Barton 512k/333FSB (BOX)
ASUS A7N8X-E Deluxe nForce2 Ultra400
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80GB 7200rpm HARD DRIVE
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10/100 PCI NETWORK INTERFACE
USB 2.0 Integrated

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ECS L7VTA3 Kt333 /SOCKET A/Audio/Lan	$59
Asus A7N8X nForce2 Ultra 400/400FSB/Socket A	$116
Asus K8V VIA K8T800 Socket 754	$145
Asus P4C800 E-DX I875P/S 478	$259
Asus P4P800-S I848P/800FSB S-478	$105
Asus P4P800SE I865PE/800FSB S-478	$135
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Gigabyte Ga-8IK1100 /875P/S-478/IEEE 1394	$175
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Gigabyte Ga-7N400L /nForce2/socket A	$85
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Maxtor Seagate 40/80/120GB 7200RPM	$75/$95 119
WD 80/120/160GB (8MB Buffer)	$105/$135 159
WD 200/250GB (8MB Buffer)	$209/$315
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Notebook HDD 5400rpm 40/60GB	$149/$225
USB2.0 Flash Drive 128/256/512MB	$59/$89/$166
IN 1 Multi Memory Card Reader	$25

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ATI Radeon 9800XT 256mb AGP (Retail)	$626
ATI AIW 9800Pro 128mb (Retail)	$469
Radeon 9200SE 128MB oem	$60
Radeon 9600SE /9600 128MB (Sapphire)	$118/148
ATI Radeon 9800Pro 128MB(box)	$319
Gainward Geforce Fx5200 128MB	$89
Gainward Geforce Fx5600XT 128MB	$135
Gainward Geforce Fx5700LE 128MB /256MB	$149/179
Gainward GF Fx5900XT GoldenSample 256mb	$280
MSI 5937 FX5600XT VTDR/128MB/vivo/remote	$150
MSI 5937 FX5900XT VTD128 128MB	$279
MSI TV BOX VOX Ext. TV Tuner & capture USB2.0	$89
Leadtek Winfast TV2000 Xpert Tv tuner PCI	$79

System Of the Month

Intel Pentium4 2.88 GHz CPU
ASUS P4SGX MX SIS 651GL
All-in-one Motherboard
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Video Graphic Display Integrated
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Integrated 6 ch. Surround Audio &
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Camera, Camcorder, Plasma, Scanner

Logitech Quickcam Reflash USB	$35
Logitech Quickcam Messenger	$45
Canon A310 / A75	$249/379
Canon S410 4.0 megapixel	$569
Canon S500 5.0 megapixel	$669
Canon S1IS 10X OPTICAL	$669
Canon ZR80/ZR85 miniDV	$555/$649
Canon Elura 60 /70 miniDV	$739/919
Canon EOS REBEL Kit	$1366
Casio EXZ40 4 megapixel	$489
Casio EXP600	$779
Casio QVR-51 5 megapixel	$489
Samsung DM201/240/360	$159/$199/$319
Samsung Dm420 /DM V4 4.1megapixel	$389/$479
Samsung SCD71 /SCD87 MiniDV	$369/$859
Samsung 50" PPM50H3 Plasma Screen	$8499
Samsung 42" PPM42S3 Plasma Screen	$4499
BenQ 46WI 46" Plasma Screen	$4299
BenQ 4300U 48bit 600x1200dpi Scanner	$65
BenQ 5000U 48bit 1200x2400dpi Scanner	$85
BenQ 5300U 48bit 1200x2400dpi Scanner	$95

Monitor -CRT (Pure Flat)

AOC FT700 17" 1280X1024 25mm	$119
AOC 9KLR 19" 1600X1200	$239
Samsung 753DF 17" 1280x1024	$179
Philip 107T 17" 1280x1024	$175

Monitor -LCD

BenQ FP767 17" LCD panel	$539
ACER AL1711BM 17" (+$70 Rebate)	$545
SONY SDM-S73H 15" LCD	$629
SONY SDM-S93 19" LCD	$899
VIEWSONIC Vg700 17" / VG900 19"	$649/859
NEC 1860NX 18" 1960NX LCD	$699/899
Samsung 153V 15" LCD	$419
Samsung 17" 173S/193S LCD	$559/799
LG 787LE 17 inch LCD PANEL	$569
LG 1515s 15 inch LCD PANEL	$479
Philips 170s 17" LCD Panel	$509

CD/ CD-RW / DVD/ DVD-RW

LG 52X CD-ROM	$25
Samsung /LG Lite On 16x DVD	$36
LG/Lite On 52x32x52x CD-RW	$43
Plextor PX-708A 8x CD/DVD+-R/RW	$225
NEC ND2500A 4x DVD+/-R/RW IDE	$125
LG 4081b 8X DVD+/-RW Drive IDE Int	$109
LG 4082b 8X DVD+/-RW IDE Int (black)	$116
Pioneer 107(OEM) 8x DVD+/-R	$135
Lite On 812S 8X DVD+-R/RW	$119

Multimedia & Controller

Creative SB 128 PCI	$20
Creative SB LIVE 2 VALUE 5.1	$36
Creative SB Audigy2 with 1394 firewire	$99
USB to Infra Red Converter	$39
USB to Bluetooth Converter	$46
3 ports Firewire IEEE1394 controller card	$29
PCMCIA IEEE 1394 FIREWIRE Adapter kit	$69
USB 2.0 4 ports PCI Adapter	$28
Ultra 133 2channels RAID controller card	$49

Networking & Modem

PCI 10/100 Network interface Card	$15
AOPEN 10/100 PCI NIC	$20
5 Ports 10/100 Switch	$29
Card Bus 10/100 PCMCIA Net Card	$36
10/100Mbps 8 / 16 Ports switch/hub	$45/$79
USB wireless LAN	$49
PCMCIA wireless LAN	$49
PCMCIA 56K V90 FAX MODEM	$69
USB2.0 4 Ports HUB w power supply	$29
SMC 4Ports Cable/DSL Router	$58
SMC wireless 4Ports Cable/DSL Router	$79
Aopen 56k V90 Fax/D V PCI	$36

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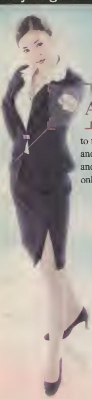

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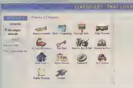
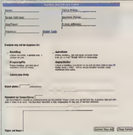

CLASSIFIEDS THAT CLICK
Choose a Category
Public Notices
Career

1. Choose your desired category and sub-category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Postal Code
Type Ad Here

2. Complete the online form, and press "Submit"

CLASSIFIEDS THAT CLICK

3. Your message will automatically be liste on the website

XINCOM - Revolutionizing the networking market

Continued from page 14

onnections and auto-failover for edundancy The load balancing feature ombines the bandwidth for two eparate concurrent broadband onnections This new Gateway will ccept any two broadband connections n any combination whether it is DSL, Cable, and/or T1 leases lines Expanding your bandwidth for a growing business will ease the problem of network congestion When one nternet connection caps its bandwidth, be XC-DPG602 will efficiently utilize he available bandwidth from the econd Internet connection

If an SMB's only Internet connection fails, there is no insurance or lost profit and productivity for every econd of downtime The Auto-failover eature of the XC-DPG602 provides rue redundant connectivity to the nternet when using two separate ISP ervices In the event that one ISP goes lown, the XC-DPG602 auto-fails over o the other ISP service. Redundancy to he Internet provides a truly ninterrupted connection for a usiness's customers while maintaining ptime and productivity for its mployees These signature features rovide cost-effective bandwidth olutions to expensive leased elecommunication lines for businesses hat use the Internet as the primarily ool for commerce

XINCOM incorporates the same obust features of the current Twin VAN product line into the XC-PG602 including Network Address ranslation (NAT), a Stateful Packet nspection (SPI) Firewall, DHCP erver, Access Filters, and VPN pass-rough to secure a business's network ervices. The Quality of Service (QoS) eature schedules and directs a etwork's traffic to take advantage of vailable bandwidth. The XC-PG602's UPnP support can ynamically open and close ports equired by certain software tomatically With increased bandwidth and redundant connectivity to the Internet provides any SMB cost-effective bandwidth solutions

XINCOM Corporation is an award winning developer, and manufacturer of broadband networking, digital electronics, and data communications. Our product line and services are designed to offer solid and secure solutions for the digital home, Small Office/Home Office (SOHO), Small to Medium Business (SMB), and Workgroup to Enterprise environments

XINCOM's broadband products are the highest quality, most durably constructed routers on the market today We strive to be compatible with and surpass today's demanding and ever changing Broadband industry. Our flexible management structure allows XINCOM to respond to the market demand quickly XINCOM's goal is to be the best at what it does and to always be on the cutting edge of technology. ◗

Approximate Costs for Broadband Services in US dollars

Broadband Service	Bandwidth	Cost
DSL	15 Mb downstream	
	1 Mb upstream	$50 80
Cable	4 Mb downstream	
	384 Kb upstream	$50 60
T1 Leased Lines	15 Mb downstream	
	15 Mb upstream	$800 - 900

Broadband service costs represented here are approximated values

Saving Costs with the Twin WAN product line in US dollars

Combined Broadband Services vs T1	Network Gateway	Cost
DSL + DSL	Twin WAN Family	$100 160
DSL + Cable	Twin WAN Family	$100 140
Cable + Cable	Twin WAN Family	$100 120
T1	Any Single WAN Router	$800 - 900

Saving costs represented here are approximated values

Features	XC-DPG402	[illegible] v2	XC-DPG[illegible] VPN	[illegible]602
CPU	RISC 50MHz	RISC 166MHz	RISC 166MHz	RISC 166MHz
RAM	4Mb	16Mb	16Mb	16Mb
Flash Memory	512Kb	1Mb	1Mb	1Mb
WAN Ports	2	2	2	2
LAN Ports	4	4	4	4
Throughput	12Mbs/sec	44Mbit/sec	44Mbit/sec	44Mbit/sec
Sessions	10.000	100 000	100.000	100.000
Inbound Load Balancing	–	–	–	✓
Outbound Load Balancing	✓	✓	✓	✓
SPI Firewall	✓	✓	✓	✓
uPnP	–	✓	✓	✓
QoS	–	✓	✓	✓
VPN	–	–	✓	–
MSRP	$100 (Price Drop)	$200	$340	$799

Prices set in US dollars

Samsung i700

Continued from page 10

stylus from it's home at the bottom of the unit isn't likely to happen when you are fumbling to catch incoming calls, or trying to dial while holding a latte and driving

Battery Life

The battery life seems very good. Hours and hours of playing Solitaire games went into verifying this The manual claims talk time of up to 4 hours and standby time of up to 240 hours

Connecting to the Web

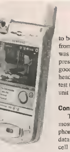
The email, because it is less demanding of resources, seemed to work well. Web surfing is pretty painful on the 'high speed' 1X network ('speeds of up to 40-60 kbps', think 28 8 modem speeds) Terminal Server was almost useable If you are serious about using Terminal Server, or web surfing, I would recommend that you get a wireless card for the built-in SD card slot and use it on 802 11 networks where available, rather than through the telephone company

Using the Phone

Turning on the PDA does not necessarily turn the phone on You have to tap on an on-screen icon to turn on the phone I also had trouble with this toggle, as the option would not stay on the screen long enough to select it It would just flash by, leaving me wondering what I had just seen.

For some reason the default setting when you turn on the unit is to display the owner information, as opposed to going straight to the phone, or the PDA screen

The speaker-phone was just OK, nothing spectacular, but a nice feature The fax option only allows incoming faxes, not outbound, which is a bit of a disappointment It would be great to be able to create a Word document and fax it directly from this unit Not only will it not send, it can't actually receive a fax on it's own, you have to connect to a computer to do this



Camera, Voice Recorder, MP3 Player

There is an integrated rotating VGA camera with a variety of exposure settings and a timer, though no flash. I did a number of test photos at the maximum 640 x 480 resolution and the feedback from friends was that they were 'pretty crappy', though this might be more of a reflection of my photography skills than the camera

The i700 also has a voice recorder built-in. Handy for those crucial 'memo-to-self' moments The recording quality is not great, unless you talk to it like a phone and the interface leaves a little to be desired, but it works

You can play MP3s on the unit using the Windows Media Player, which lacks any conventional play-list features No doubt there are better applications for doing this, just waiting to be downloaded Sou
from the built-in speak
was a little crackly, b
presumably it soun
good coming throu
headphones I couldn
test this because the den
unit arrived without the

Connectivity Charges

The deal breaker f
most of these 'intern
phones' is the cost of t
data connectivity. Th
cell phone netwo
companies are still premium pricin
internet access Email is the notab
exception, but if you use this phone
surf the web, like my kids use the
computers, you can easily spend ov
$100 a month just on data access I
very careful which plan you select
you sign up for the low end $5 a mon
plan, and then by mistake downlo
100 megabytes, you are looking at
$1,500 phone bill at the liste
$15/megabyte charge

Conclusion

The i700, unlike the smalle
thinner and cheaper PalmOne Treo, h
no built-in keypad It is big, heav
expensive to buy, expensive to run a
ultimately geeky No doubt it is ide
for the right person, but it does n
seem to be a mainstream product.
you need to run Windows Pocket 1
applications and you only want
carry one device, and you are on
company expense account, order
one of these units right away Everyo
else should just keep waiting ▶

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Travel anywhere with this sleek, elegant mouse It's especially designed for notebook use so you can forget about that awkward mouse pad.

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These recordable compact discs feature write speed compatibility of 48X Each CD-R offers 80 minutes of audio recording time or 700MB of data

Princo 50pk DVD-R

4X Maximum write speed

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Princo DVD-R media provides reliable and cost effective format for data recording, distribution and storage Holds up to 4.7GB of data.

SAMSUNG 173V 17" LCD

220 cd/m2 Brightness / 450:1 CR / 1280x1024

$539.98

The SyncMaster 173V is a 17 inch TFT LCD monitor delivering a 450 1 contrast ratio pixel pitch of 0 264mm and 1280 x 1024 resolution.

ASROCK K7S41GX

Onboard Video / AGP 8X / 5 1 Audio / LAN / USB 2.0

$52.98

K7S41GX is ideal for the value market segment who require a performance workstation on a cost effective budget.

TRIPPLITE PROTECT IT

TRIPPLITE Protect IT TLP810NET / 8 Outlets / Ethernet

$29.98

Tripp Lite's TLP810NET surge suppressor has 8 outlets a 10-ft. cord with a space saving right angle plug, and diagnostic LEDs

SAMSUNG 193V 19" LCD

250 cd/m2 Brightness / 700 1 CR / 1280x1024

$789.98

The SyncMaster 193V is a 19-inch TFT-LCD monitor delivering a contrast ratio of 700 1, 1280 x 1024 resolution and pixel pitch of 0 294mm H/V

VIEWSONIC 18" LCD

18 1" Viewable / 1280x1024 / 350 1 CR

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The 18 1" ViewSonic VG810s LCD displays combine a refined slim-bezel design with the quality you have come to expect from ViewSonic.

EPSON 1260 SCANNER

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- 40GB 7200RPM Hard Drive
- 52X MAX EIDE CD ROM
- 17" Case w/ 350W PSU
- 180W Speaker Set
- PS/2 Keyboard
- PS/2 2 Button mouse w/ wheel

$349

Ion Value PC

- Intel Celeron 1 7GHz Processor
- ECS SIS661FX M w/ Video / Audio / LAN
- 256MB PC3200 Memory
- 1 44 HD MB Floppy Drive
- 40GB 7200RPM Hard Drive
- 52X MAX EIDE CD-ROM
- 17" Case w/ 350W PSU
- 180W Speaker Set
- PS/2 Keyboard
- PS/2 2 Button mouse w/ wheel

$389

Tundra Lite Notebook

- Intel Pentium M 1.5GHz Processor
- ATI 9100IGP graphics with 128MB Video
- 256MB PC2100 SODIMM Memory
- 15.0" 1024x768 TFT Display
- 20GB 4200RPM Hard Drive
- CD-ROM/DVD-ROM Combo Drive
- 4 x USB2.0 2 x IEEE1394 Firewire, IrDA
- 10/100 Ethernet, V.90/V.92 Fax Modem
- Intel PRO Wireless LAN 802.11b

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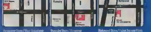

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